

U.S.S.N. 10/708,858

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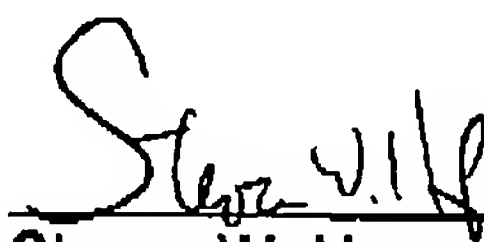
03-1088 (BOE 0481 PA)

REMARKS

Claims 1, 15 and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Specht et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,985,362) in view of Klapper et al. (5,312,362). Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection. However, in an effort to move this case towards allowance, Applicants, noting the Examiner's indication in the Office Action of the allowability of claims 2-14, 16-24, and 26-35 if rewritten in independent form, have amended independent claims 1, 15 and 25 to further include "wherein said hydrophobic, open-cell foam structure comprises a melamine-based, thermosetting open-cell foam structure." Applicants have also canceled claims 16 and 26 without prejudice. Applicants respectfully suggest that such changes result in claims 1-15, 17-25, and 27-35 being allowable over the cited prior art. Reconsideration of claims 1-15, 17-25, and 27-35 is thus respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that claims 1-15, 17-25, and 27-35 are in proper form and allowable over the cited prior art. The Examiner is invited to telephone the Applicants' undersigned attorney at (248) 223-9500 if any matters remain unresolved.

Respectfully Submitted,

ARTZ & ARTZ P.C.

Steven W. Hays
Reg. No. 41,823
28333 Telegraph Road, Suite 250
Southfield, MI 48034
(248) 223-9500

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